

**Article 9: Construction Permits**

**Division 3: Electrical Permit Procedures**

*(Added 12-9-1997 by O-18451 N.S.; effective 1-1-2000.)*

**§129.0301 Purpose of Electrical Permit Procedures**

The purpose of these procedures is to establish the process for review of Electrical Permit applications for compliance with the minimum standards necessary to safeguard public health, safety, and welfare.

*(Added 12-9-1997 by O-18451 N.S.; effective 1-1-2000.)*

**§129.0302 When an Electrical Permit Is Required**

No electrical wiring, device, appliance, or equipment shall be installed within or on any *structure* or *premises* nor shall any alteration, addition, or replacement be made in any existing wiring, device, appliance, or equipment unless an Electrical Permit has been obtained for the work, except as exempted in Section 129.0303.

*(Added 12-9-1997 by O-18451 N.S.; effective 1-1-2000.)*

**§129.0303 Exemptions from an Electrical Permit**

An Electrical Permit is not required for the following work:

- (a) Minor work such as replacing fuses, replacing or repairing switches, circuit breakers, lampholders, ballasts, or receptacles where the replacement is the same size and general type as the original equipment and the work is done in accordance with the provisions of this article;
- (b) The replacement of lamps or the connection of portable appliances to suitable receptacles that have been permanently installed;
- (c) Installation, alteration, or repair of wiring, devices, appliances, or equipment that operates at a voltage not exceeding 25 volts between conductors and not capable of supplying more than 50 watts of energy;
- (d) Installation made by a public service corporation acting as permitted in the 2004 California Electrical Code, Section 90-2;
- (e) Installation of remote-control switching devices on privately owned appliances when the devices are installed by the San Diego Gas and Electric

Company or its authorized agents as part of the Peak-Shift energy conservation program, provided that specifications for the installations are approved in writing by the Building Official; or

- (f) Work done by employees of the City on City-owned or leased buildings.  
(Amended 9-24-2002 by O-19104 N.S.)  
(Amended 6/27/2005 by O-19392 N.S.)

**§129.0305 General Rules for Electrical Permits**

- (a) An Electrical Permit shall be obtained before work is started except in cases where emergency or urgent necessity can be shown to exist, in which case a permit shall be obtained within 24 hours of beginning work, not including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.
- (b) A separate Electrical Permit is required for each *structure* that stands alone, except for garages that are accessory to single-unit residences and located on the same *premises*.
- (c) Permits for privately owned conduits or other materials in public places and in and across *streets* and *alleys* may be issued only after approval has been granted for the installation by the City Engineer.
- (d) The Building Official may withhold permission to connect electrical service to any *structure* until the *structure* is approved for occupancy.  
(Added 12-9-1997 by O-18451 N.S.; effective 1-1-2000.)

**§129.0306 Qualifications for Obtaining an Electrical Permit**

An Electrical Permit may be issued only to a person, firm, or corporation that holds a valid California State Contractor's License that permits electrical installation or to the property owner or lessee.  
(Added 12-9-1997 by O-18451 N.S.; effective 1-1-2000.)

**§129.0307 How to Apply for an Electrical Permit**

- (a) An application for an Electrical Permit shall be submitted in accordance with Sections 112.0102 and 129.0105.
- (b) Every application shall include the following information:
- (1) The location of the work proposed to be installed; and

- (2) The amount and kind of work proposed.
- (c) Submittal documents including plans, specifications, and schedules may be necessary to determine whether the installation as described will be in compliance with the requirements of this article.
- (d) Electrical plans shall be submitted for the following types of installations:
  - (1) All commercial and industrial installations;
  - (2) Multiple dwelling buildings that have electrical heating and contain three or more units (a single line diagram will not be required if the electrical service is single phase and not more than 400 amps); and
  - (3) Multiple dwelling buildings that have no electrical heating and contain four or more units.
- (e) All submitted plans shall show a single line diagram of service, feeders, conduit, and wire sizes. Electrical calculations shall accompany all submitted plans. Signed Certification of Compliance with California Administrative Code Title 24 shall appear on the plans.
- (f) All submitted plans shall be signed as required by the California Business and Professions Code Division 3.
- (g) All plans required for hospitals and electrical installations operating in excess of 600 volts shall be signed by a State Registered Electrical Engineer.  
(Added 12-9-1997 by O-18451 N.S.; effective 1-1-2000.)  
(Amended 6/27/2005 by O-19392 N.S.)

#### **§129.0308 Decision Process for an Electrical Permit**

A decision on an application for an Electrical Permit shall be made by the Building Official in accordance with Process One. The Electrical Permit shall be approved if the Building Official determines that the work described in the permit application and the accompanying plans complies with the requirements of the Electrical Regulations, other applicable laws and ordinances, and any applicable *development permit*.  
(Added 12-9-1997 by O-18451 N.S.; effective 1-1-2000.)

**§129.0309 Issuance of an Electrical Permit**

- (a) An Electrical Permit may be issued after all approvals have been obtained and the required fees have been paid.
- (b) An Electrical Permit shall not be issued for a *development* that requires a *development permit* until the *development permit* has been issued.  
(Added 12-9-1997 by O-18451 N.S.; effective 1-1-2000.)

**§129.0310 Initial Utilization of an Electrical Permit**

An Electrical Permit shall become void if the work authorized by the Electrical Permit has not begun within 180 calendar days of the date of permit issuance.  
(Added 12-9-1997 by O-18451 N.S.; effective 1-1-2000.)

**§129.0311 Maintaining Utilization of an Electrical Permit**

An Electrical Permit shall become void if the work authorized by the Electrical Permit is suspended or abandoned for a continuous period of 180 calendar days.  
(Added 12-9-1997 by O-18451 N.S.; effective 1-1-2000.)

**§129.0312 Expiration of an Electrical Permit**

An Electrical Permit shall expire by limitation and become void 24 months after the date of permit issuance, unless an exception is granted in accordance with Section 129.0218(a). If the work authorized by the Electrical Permit has not received final inspection approval by the permit expiration date, all work shall stop until a new permit is issued.  
(Added 12-9-1997 by O-18451 N.S.; effective 1-1-2000.)

**§129.0313 No Extension of Time for an Electrical Permit**

- (a) An expired Electrical Permit may not be renewed unless extended by the Building Official in connection with the extension of a Building Permit.
- (b) A new Electrical Permit is required to finish any work that was not finished because of the expiration of the permit; however, unfinished work may be removed without a permit. All work under a new Electrical Permit must comply with the regulations in effect at the time the new permit is issued.  
(Added 12-9-1997 by O-18451 N.S.; effective 1-1-2000.)

**§129.0314 Required Inspections for an Electrical Permit**

All construction work and equipment authorized by an Electrical Permit shall be inspected by the Building Official in accordance with Section 129.0111 and the inspection requirements of the Land Development Manual.

*(Added 12-9-1997 by O-18451 N.S.; effective 1-1-2000.)*

**§129.0315 Notification of Incomplete Installations**

(a) If any person to whom an Electrical Permit has been issued quits an installation, the permittee, owner, or owner's authorized representative shall notify the Building Official in writing. The notice shall be given within 2 calendar days of the date on which work was discontinued and shall include a request for inspection of the work installed. Upon receipt of this notification by the Building Official, the Electrical Permit shall become void.

(b) No person shall resume work on any incomplete installation until the installation has been released by the Building Official and a new Electrical Permit has been obtained. A copy of the notice shall accompany the application for the new permit.

*(Added 12-9-1997 by O-18451 N.S.; effective 1-1-2000.)*

**§129.0316 No Deviation from Electrical Permit Without Approval**

The Electrical Permit shall be for the installation described in the permit application and no deviation shall be made from the installation so described without the written approval of the Building Official.

*(Added 12-9-1997 by O-18451 N.S.; effective 1-1-2000.)*

**§129.0317 Temporary Electrical Permit**

(a) The Building Official may issue a Temporary Electrical Permit for the following types of electrical installations:

- (1) Construction Power. The temporary power authorization shall be for the time construction is in progress;
- (2) Carnivals, Conventions, Festivals, Fairs, and similar events. The temporary power authorization shall be for the time the event is in progress, not to exceed 90 calendar days; and

- (3) The Testing of Any Permanent System of Wiring Prior to the Final Approval of That System. The temporary power authorization shall be for the time required for testing, not to exceed 30 calendar days.
- (b) The Building Official shall determine that the safety of life and property will not be jeopardized by the temporary electrical installation.
- (c) All temporary installations shall conform as nearly as practicable with the requirements of the Electrical Regulations for permanent installations. The Building Official may permit deviations that will not cause hazard to life or property.
- (d) If the Building Official subsequently determines that the electrical installation is a hazard to life or property, the Building Official may immediately rescind or cancel the temporary permit covering the installations and disconnect or order disconnection of all energy to the equipment.
- (e) Upon the expiration of the time designated in the temporary permit, the Building Official may disconnect or order disconnection of all electrical energy authorized by the temporary permit.

*(Added 12-9-1997 by O-18451 N.S.; effective 1-1-2000.)*